

Fire Protection District 5Central Mason County**RECEIVED**

February 12, 2004

APR 16 2004

Federal Communications Commission
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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz
Band; WT Docket No. 02-55 (Ex Parte)

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Fire Protection District 5 Mason County is writing to express its opposition to the Nextel's so-called "Consensus Plan" and support for the "Balanced Approach Plan". As discussed below, we believe that the Consensus Plan will unnecessarily jeopardize Public Safety communications systems.

Any plan that would negatively impact the ability of emergency personnel to communicate would have a detrimental impact on operations. We are opposed to any change in systems that would affect emergency operations.

We are concerned that the Consensus Plan's relocation process is extremely complicated, and there is no guarantee that Public Safety licensees will be able to continually operate their communications systems during the process. In addition, it is unrealistic to expect all Public Safety licensees to relocate in the time frame required given the complexity of some Public Safety systems and the fact that the rebanding would be going on nation-wide all at the same time.

Furthermore, it appears that the Consensus Plan does not include a sufficient amount of funding to offset all costs associated with its implementation. Significantly, there appears to be questions as to whether the money "committed" by Nextel will even be available in the first place. A partially completed rebanding would be much worse than the limited amount of interference that is occurring today. The emergency services community has invested a significant amount of money to provide a reliable means of communication for operations and is not in a position to incur any additional costs.

Due to the importance of these communications system and the problems that would be created by the Consensus Plan, we urge the FCC to adopt the Balanced Approach Plan that would resolve interference to Public Safety with significantly less disruption and cost.

Sincerely,


Richard A. Knight, Chief

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